Tele-Serials on Dr. Ambedkar

2114. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governing Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation on the eve of the Golden Jublee Year of India's Independence i.e. 1997 decided to bring out teleserials on the life and mission of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and telecast the same on the national network of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what action has been taken for implementing the decision; and

(c) what is the present status of production of the said tele-serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action was initiated to implement this decision and accordingly the Doordarshan was requested to take up this task of preparing the tele-serial. Subsequently however, it was suggested that instead of pursuing on the preparation of the tele-serial on Dr. Ambedkar, Doordarshan may consider to telecast the T.V. Doeumentary on Dr. Ambedkar which was earlier prepared in the year 1991. However, in response to this proposal, Doordarshan conveyed that it would not be possible to re-telecast the above mentioned T.V. Documentary since this was in long-band and outdated.

The above fact will be placed before the Governing Body of the Foundation for its further consideration and directions.

Allocation for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers

2115. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 90 crores has been allocated in the budget estimates of her Ministry during 1998-99 for supporting the programmes meant for liberation and rehabilitiation of Scavengers;

(b) if so, what is the total amount utilized out of this amount, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, under the Revised Estimates for 1998-99 the allocation under this Scheme has been fixed at Rs. 20 crores.

(b) Out of Rs. 20 crores, an amount of Rs. 5.90 crores has been utilized.

(c) Does not arise.

Residential Schools for SC/ST Girl Students

2116. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 250/- crores was provided in the budget estimates of her Ministry for the year 1997-98 for establishment of residential schools for the girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a similar amount of Rs. 250/- crores has been provided in the budget estimates of the current financial year 1998-99 for same purpose;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to utilize this amount and what results have been achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Budget Estimates for 1998-99 in respect of the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme under which establishment of residential schools for girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, including minorities, has been revised from Rs. 250 crore to Rs. 20 crores in Revised Estimates 1998-99.